



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
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BILL HASLAM
Governor

RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.
Commissioner

TCDDHH COUNCIL MEETING
League for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Friday, November 4, 2011

Members Present: Thom Roberts, Lordy Smith (Chair), Paulette Melton (Vice-Chair), Dana Hughes, Patti Bell-Norris (Interim Director for Blind Services), Steve Farmer (for Alan Mealka), Sonja Howley (for Deborah Harris), Michael Friedman, and Cherrell Campbell-Street (Asst. Commissioner).

Members Not Present: Deborah Harris, Alan Mealka, Summer Chappell, Lygia Williams, and Margie Ulrich

Call to Order

At approximately 9:10 a.m. the meeting was called to order.

Review of Minutes

The Council members were asked if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Being confirmed, the Council was then asked to approve these minutes. If approved, minutes stand as the official record of the previous meeting on August 12, 2011.

- ✓ Individual Action: Motion made by Dana Hughes and seconded by Paulette Melton for the minutes to stand as the official record of the previous meeting on August 12, 2011.
- ✓ Member Action: The Council voted verbally with all ayes, no nays.
Motion Carried.

Assistant Commissioner Report Cherrell Campbell - Street

We just received the Rehabilitation Services Administration monitoring report and there were some things noted in the report that we need to look at in terms of compliance with federal law. We will be working on bringing the department back into compliance.

I will be interviewing for a Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and a Director of Deaf-Blind and Blind Services in the upcoming weeks. Hopefully we will have someone in place by January.

I will also be looking at the Vocational Rehabilitation Policy Manual, along with the order of selection. I would love to hear some of your ideas as we try to build a foundation that we can be proud of and that will serve the most people with disabilities.

DRS Report Patti Bell-Norris

- As of November 1, 2011, Vocational Rehabilitation has a new Assistant Commissioner, Cherrell Campbell-Street.
- Terry Smith retired as Executive Director of Blind Services on October 31, 2011, and Patti Bell-Norris is serving as Interim Director.
- DRS continues to work with TRIMS (case management system).
- There are three counselor vacancies. One in Memphis, one in Knoxville, and one in Chattanooga.

Council Member Reports

- **Dana Hughes** –
 - Mr. Hughes is currently working on CDL licensure for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
 - Mr. Hughes is also working with the 911 system to address issues for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- **Sonia Howley (for Deborah Harris)** –
 - The new Deaf Family Literacy Academy is now underway. We have 20 families and a waiting list. We hope to be able to select up to five more families to serve by the end of the school year.
 - We're also partnering with the Memphis Library System and have a monthly signing story time at the library. Story time will be offered once a month.
 - We're also providing Parent Educational Meetings. We had approximately 26 at the last meeting in which a representative from Gallaudet came and spoke.
 - We had 100% in our official kick-off for the DFLA, with 127 people in attendance, along with other supporters from the community.
- **Lordy Smith** –
 - MCBDA (Memphis Chapter Black Deaf Advocates) had their annual picnic day in September and had a great time.

- In September Thom Roberts came to Memphis and had a workshop on interpreter training. Everyone had a lot of fun and we are looking forward to next year's training.
- **Michael Friedman –**
 - Mr. Friedman attended the weekly Say It With Sign dinner. At the dinner individuals get together and learn to sign in a practical setting. Approximately 13 attended this past week.
 - We have approximately 54 people attending the weekly sign language class.
 - A building has been purchased for the Deaf to use as a community center. It can be used by any Deaf person at any time and for any reason.
- **Steve Farmer (for Alan Mealka) –**
 - For the past four or five years we've had a steady increase in enrollments. Last year we had more students than we've had in 15 years and we continue to have new enrollments.
 - TSD's Varsity Football team was selected as the Mason-Dixon National Champs, with nine wins and one loss.

Executive Director's Report

August

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| 17 | Hands and Voices Conference Call |
| 17 | TN Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) Intra-State Departmental Meeting |
| 26 | TN Rehabilitation Center, Smyrna Graduation |

September

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| 1 | Webinar: "Emergency Registries: An Objective Analysis" |
| 8 | TSPN Regional Meeting |
| 8 | Mental Health for the Deaf Community Networking Meeting |
| 10 | TN Assoc. of Professional Interpreters and Translators (TAPIT) Conference – Presented, "Filling in the Gap; Closure Skills" |
| 22 | PEPNet Michael Milecznski trained on "E-Folio" & "I-Transition" |
| 27 | Suicide Memorial (sponsored by TSPN) Centennial Park, Nashville |
| 30 | Center Visits in Jackson and Memphis |
| 30-Oct 1 | Presented workshop, "Interpreters' Bag of Tricks" in Memphis |

October

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| 7 | Center visits in Knoxville and Johnson City |
| 7 | Deaf Awareness Picnic in Johnson City |
| 11 | Early Alerting and Resource Services (EARS) Meeting |
| 13 | TSPN Meeting |
| 15-19 | Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) Conference |

November

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| 1 | Meeting with Cherrell Campbell-Street, new Assistant Commissioner, Division of Rehabilitation Services |
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Other activities include, but not limited to, providing assistance in obtaining hearing aids, providing advocacy, and serving on the Deaf Career Day 2012 Planning Committee and the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness 2012 Conference Committee.

Center Director Reports

- **CCDHH – Jessica Harrison** -
 - CCDHH has provided 13.25 hours of community service interpreting for various appointments this past quarter.
 - CCDHH's program coordinator is participating in a leadership training program.
 - CCDHH participated in a radio interview in October. Information regarding Captel phones, HLAA, CCDHH, and the DAW picnic was shared.
- **KCD – Terry Osborne** -
 - KCD Board of Directors will have an announcement regarding the search for the position of Executive Director in a few days.
 - KCD will be busy in November with their Thanksgiving Dinner, the Fall Pancake Festival and several workshops.
- **JCIL – Amy Cone** –
 - JCIL staff traveled to the Medina Police Department and spoke to the entire police force about deaf awareness and how to approach a Deaf or Hard of Hearing individual.
 - The center has been busy with ASL classes and will be holding their first ASL III class in several years, which will begin this winter.
- **Bridges – Sallie Hussey**-
 - Bridges has a new literacy program that will focus on improving English, reading and writing literacy skills for children.
 - There are a couple of positions vacant that we are looking to fill soon. One is the Education and Outreach Coordinator, and the other will be a Special Events Coordinator. We will start interviews soon.
- **Deaf Connect – Teresa Wilson** -
 - Deaf Connect has increased contacts with businesses (physicians, in particular) regarding ADA specifications regarding Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals.
 - Deaf Connect has had several workshops and events.
 - Deaf Connect now has a position on what used to be the Mayor's Council. It is now the Memphis Council with Disabilities.
- **PFCA – Linda Lawson** –
 - Amazon.Com has come to Chattanooga and they've hired three deaf employees and all three are VR clients. They require at least a High School Diploma which needs to be a focus.
 - We now have Vocational Evaluation equipment and are doing evaluations. Cookeville is planning to send some folks down for us to do evaluations for them also.

Committee Reports

- **Communication Committee**, Summer Chappell – No Report
- **Legislative Committee**, Vacant – No Report
- **Education Committee**, Deborah Harris – No Report
- **Social Welfare**, Lygia Williams – No Report

Announcements

Tanya Bowman, Tennessee Hands and Voices: Tennessee Hands and Voices is a part of the Tennessee Disability Coalition and officially became a chapter in September. Our goal is to collectively work with professionals to provide resources and information for families to improve communication access as well as educational outcomes for children across the state. We have informational meetings, family events, trainings, and calls every third Wednesday. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Thom Roberts, SERID: The Annual SERID Conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Chattanooga, October 16th – 19th this coming year. It will be the 41st annual conference and we hope to make it the best ever. There are eight states in the region that participate and we hope to have representation from all groups there to represent Tennessee. Our goal this year is to help prepare for employment and we will have 59 workshops. We anticipate approximately 300 – 325 people and hope to see all of you there. For more information the web-site is: www.serid.org.

Sandy Cohen, Nashville Public Library: The Library's eighth annual career day will be held March 1 at the Nashville Public Library. It is open to seventh grade thru high school aged students. We need four volunteer speakers if anyone would like to help.

Also, my assistant is retiring and we will be hiring for his position. It will be posted at: www.nashville.gov. We are hoping to have someone in the position by the beginning of January.

Cathy Steger: The Deaf-Blind Camp will be May 15th – 20th at Garner Creek Retreat Center. SSPS are free and it will be limited to 40 campers and 60 SSPS. We want to encourage everyone to attend.

Lana Newton: Jacqueline Davis-Keenan is the new Director at TREDS out of Vanderbilt in the Children's Program. She's working with children up to age 21, and their families, who have a hearing/vision loss.

Dana Hughes: I have a new business. It is "Think ASL". The web-site will be www.thinkasl.com. Our goal is to tutor one-on-one with a videophone and possibly have classes via videophone so we will have chat capabilities. I wanted to invite everyone to check it out.

Old Business/New Business

- **New:**
 - Dana Hughes was appointed as the Legislative Committee Chair.
- **Old:**
 - Nominations for a council member are still pending.
 - Council meetings are set for the following dates:
 - February 10, 2012
 - May 11, 2012
 - August 10, 2012
 - November 9, 2012
 - CCDHH will bring breakfast on February 10th, and Deaf Connect will bring breakfast on November 9th, leaving May 11th and August 10th open.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Lordy Smith at 12:00 P.M.